

MEDITERRANEAN QUATERNARY RIVER ENVIRONMENTS edited by J. Lewin, M. G. Macklin and J. C. Woodward, Balkema, Rotterdam, 1995. No. of pages: 292. Price: £50.00 (hb). ISBN 90 5410 1911.

In 1992 a conference was held in Cambridge to survey current knowledge and notions about river behaviour during the Quaternary in a wide range of climatic, tectonic and cultural settings within the Mediterranean Basin. This attractive volume contains 19 of the papers presented at the meeting; it provides detailed and often novel information on over 50 river basins, and admirably illustrates the very different perspectives from which valley history may be viewed.

The papers are in three groups. The first, introduced by John Lewin, focuses on the impact of tectonic activity on river behaviour. Two papers deal with Greece (one by Collier, Leeder and Jackson, the other by Gaki-Papanastassiou and Maroukian); three with SE Spain (Wenzens and Wenzens, Mather and Harvey, and Mather *et al.*); and one with Anatolia (Kuzucuoglu). The second group, introduced by Jamie Woodward, is concerned with 'archaeology and human-river environment interactions', and includes two papers on Greece (one by the editors and one by van Andel, Gallis and Toufexis), two on Italy (Barker

and Hunt, Hunt and Gilbertson), one on NE Spain (Macklin and Passmore), and one on southern France (Provansal). The third section, introduced by Mark Macklin, is entitled 'Geochronology, correlation and controls of Quaternary river erosion and sedimentation'. It includes one paper each on S Italy (Abbott and Valastro), the eastern Maghreb (Ballais), south-central Turkey (Roberts), SE Cyprus (Stevens and Wedel), NW Libya (Anketell *et al.*), the Algarve (James and Chester) and SE Spain (Harvey, Miller and Wells).

In the final chapter the editors show that further progress in the understanding of Mediterranean river history will hinge on the erection of dependable chronologies, the analysis of a more comprehensive range of environments than is presented in the present survey, the interpretation of alluvial sequences with due regard for basin sediment dynamics and tectonic activity, and close collaboration between archaeologists and geomorphologists. As they note, the list is a familiar one; but the case they make for it is unusually persuasive.

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